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## A LUSTRUM

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FIVE years are not a long space in the life of a man, unless to the impatient youth; only one-fourteenth part of the span prescribed by Moses. Still less are they in the life of a perennial institution like THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, which has already survived all who were living at its birth, and yet is still exultant and elate with the long thoughts of youth. But five years are sufficient time for the doing of much work, especially when there is much work to be done. We should doubt if there had been another five years in human history, since, at least, the first century of our era, which surpassed in vital and enduring moment to the welfare of mankind the period comprised by the dates 1915 and 1920. That period began with the destruction of the *Lusitania* in May, 1915; which, through the inexorable grinding of the mills of God, assured America's entrance into the Great War of Humanity against the Huns. It ended, let us say, with the President's self-slaughter of his League of Nations scheme; a happy tragedy, enabling America to face the world without fear and without reproach and say, "We are a people yet!"

We are still too close to those years and to their great events to scan their full perspective and to realize their purport. But there is none who does not feel that it is no light thing to be able merely to say, with Sièyes, "I have lived." Immeasurably greater is it to have lived and to have acted, to have been a vital, a potent, perhaps in some respects a determining part in the epochal achievements of such a time. And such is the record which this REVIEW may claim for these first five years of its second century.

It was the fortune of this periodical to be founded at a tremendous conjuncture and climax of human affairs; one of the greatest in history. Men then thought of Waterloo—and rightly—as we think or should think of the Marne.

A little later they were thinking of the Holy Alliance as we think of the League of Nations. It was a time, too, of intense intellectual activity and productivity, and of epochal inventions and enterprises in the industrial and commercial world; even as is the present time.

The men who founded THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW were deeply imbued with the spirit of that age, and it is not over-fanciful to assume that they imparted a full measure thereof to this, their literary offspring. This REVIEW was born in a great time, and was born for great things. Five years ago we recalled the story of its first century, of those who had contributed to its pages, and of its own contributions to the progress of the Nation and of the world. To-day, avoiding alike the reproach of the egoist and of the too great eulogist of time past, we may justifiably claim that its second century has begun in a manner not unworthy of its first, and that the lustrum just past has been second in interest, in importance and in influence to none of its twenty predecessors.

There was the War. Beyond doubt it overshadowed every other interest and topic in the world. It would have been an affectation, a stultification, had not this REVIEW recognized that fact and accordingly given to the War the first place in its attention. Our readers will testify that it did so. Before America was involved as an actual belligerent, THE REVIEW strove to present the causes, the circumstances and the issues of the War, with completeness and with clarity, and, in accordance with its ancient principle, with all possible impartiality. If it printed Wayne MacVeagh's scathing arraignment of German "frightfulness," it also printed Houston Stewart Chamberlain's pro-German attack upon England. The articles by Norman Angell on the neutrality of the high seas, by David Jayne Hill on international morality, by Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton on the Kaiser's psychosis, by Henry M. Hyndman on British secret diplomacy, and by John Galsworthy on the psychology of England in the war, were a few of the contributions of this journal to the Nation's clear seeing and right thinking.

When at last the inevitable crisis came, detesting the necessity, yet recognizing it, THE REVIEW strove to bear the Fiery Cross throughout the land, to arouse the national conscience, the national spirit, the national militancy, for a victorious waging of the most righteous war in the world's

annals against the wickedest foe that ever menaced humanity. Its *ad patriam* appeal was direct, intense, and multiform. John Grier Hibben wrote on the Higher Patriotism. Lindley M. Garrison discussed Problems of National Defence. Charles W. Eliot told How We should be Prepared. Albert Bushnell Hart contributed a Defence of the Monroe Doctrine. Major-General John F. O'Ryan considered the Role of the National Guard; Rear-Admiral C. F. Goodrich the Future of the Battleship; Franklin D. Roosevelt the Future of the Submarine; Charles O. Haines the Relation of the Railroads to National Defence; Representative John J. Fitzgerald the Fiscal Policy of Congress. Arthur H. Pollen, the foremost British authority, discussed the needs of our Navy from his expert point of view, and Rear-Admiral Bradley A. Fiske contributed a notable series of articles on practically every pertinent theme of naval need, naval duty, and potentiality of naval achievement. Such were some of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW'S replies to Lord Northcliffe's suggestive article on what was likely to happen if America entered the war.

There were other aspects of the war and of war problems, urgent and commanding. There were the Liberty Loans and national finance in general, expertly considered by Benjamin Strong. There were the vast problems of railroad administration, authoritatively discussed by William Z. Ripley, Samuel O. Dunn and others. The perils of espionage engaged the attention of John B. Stanchfield, while David Jayne Hill wrote of the protection of American citizens. Proceeding to more abstract yet not less pertinent themes, William Dean Howells dwelt upon the significant conjuncture of America and Great Britain in the war, fulfilling the dream and the desire of Jefferson of more than ninety years before. In the domain of pure philosophy in public matters were various notable contributions, such as Philip Marshall Brown's on Democracy and Diplomacy, Joseph Jastrow's Pacifist Defence of Americanism, and Miss Margaret Sherwood's incomparable appeal for the conservation of our spiritual resources.

But American though it be in name and in fact, the outlook of this REVIEW, as of this continent, is upon all the world; wherefore it addressed itself to the interests of other Nations than our own in the World War and in its various

settlements. There was no more pertinent theme than that of the relations between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, nor could it have been more authoritatively discussed than by George Macaulay Trevelyan. The two sides of one of the most contentious of all post-bellum settlements were presented by the Duke Litta-Visconti-Arese in behalf of Italy and Italia Irredenta, and by V. R. Savic for the Jugo-Slav interests in the Adriatic. Gilbert Murray discussed the status of the British aristocracy in the war; Charles Johnston considered first Russia's position on the edge of the revolutionary abyss, and then her plight under the sway of Sovietism; Jerusalem and the Holy Land engaged the attention of Johan F. Scheltema; Admiral Sir Percy Scott told of the war as he had seen it from his place of duty; Demetrius C. Boulger told the story of the ill-starred Antwerp expedition; Shane Leslie discussed the pro-ally status of Irish Nationalists; Lady Kennard contributed a fascinating Roumanian wartime diary; St. John Ervine wrote of the effects of the war upon literature; H. Addington Bruce considered the psychology of the Red Cross movement; while one of the rarest masterpieces of our time was that realist-psychical study of "The Wing of Death" by Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant.

Directly relating to post-bellum settlements and future conditions was an impressive array of articles, American, European and Asiatic. Sidney Webb discussed the trade of the world after the war; Gilbert K. Chesterton the Real Secret Diplomacy, and plans for the next war; Emile Boutroux the status of the nations after the war; Edwin S. Corwin the freedom of the seas, and William Roscoe Thayer warned the nation and the world against a "Judas peace." Stephane Lauzanne discussed the relations of France to the peace treaty and gave his vivid impressions of the peace conference; Marcel Knecht drew striking sketches of the French Peace Commissioners; Miss Gertrude Slaughter told us of the significance of Fiume; Baron Rosen discussed Bolshevism and the other problems of Russia after the war; and the great controversy in the Far East was illuminated with contributions by Jeremiah W. Jenks on Japan in action and Japan and her neighbor, by K. K. Kawakami on Japan in China, and by J. C. Ferguson on Japan's use of her hegemony; while the problems of the "Lumber Room of Europe" were set forth by Professor A. Andreades in his

discussion of Greece, Bulgaria and the Price of Nationality. Nor, seeing how vigorously this REVIEW had promoted intelligent and efficient prosecution of the war, was there any neglect of the no less important work of counselling America's wise course through the mazes of peace-making and world-readjustment; in which the keen analyses of the Peace Treaty and the Covenant, by David Jayne Hill, James M. Beck and others contributed powerfully, as we must believe, to the ultimate triumph of American Nationality and thus performed a service comparable in enduring value with that of our soldiers in the field.

What we might term the by-products and the aftermath of the war received due consideration in John Galsworthy's discussion of the balance sheet of the soldier-workman; Barbara Spofford Morgan's presentation of the problem of the returned soldier; Joseph S. Auerbach's consideration of our welcome to the soldiers; Katherine Mayo's striking contributions of Demobilization and the State Police, and Under the Yellow Flag; Dr. W. W. Keen's on the fight against infection; William J. Mayo's on the Right to Health; and Howell Cheney's on Compulsory Health Insurance. The alien within our gates, both friend and foe, received attention in Miss Frances Kellor's discussion of the problems of immigration in reconstruction, and Chase S. Osborn's of the question whether deportation was the cure for the evils of sedition.

But the war had no monopoly of public and of national interests. Had all these articles and the many more relating to the Protean aspects of that great struggle been omitted from its pages, THE REVIEW would still have presented an impressive array of the most authoritative and practical essays on political and civic themes of commanding moment. Nor has this REVIEW been in these years a purely political, diplomatic, economical, civic publication. On the contrary, its pages have teemed with the richest products of literature and art as far removed from war and politics as though these latter had never been. The body of man lives not by bread alone, and his mind not alone upon the so-called practical topics of current interest. *Inter arma, literae non silent.* There were time and space amid the hurly-burly for a wealth of imaginative literature, of science and philosophy and art, of historical reminiscence, of criticism and of fiction. Arthur Symons could write on

Verlaine and Baudelaire, Rossetti, and Browning, and Coventry Patmore. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch could discuss the workmanship of many of Shakespeare's plays. Fred-eric Harrison could write of Friar Bacon, G. W. E. Rus-sell of John Bright, A. C. Swinburne (from a posthumous manuscript) of Christopher Marlowe, Clara Gruening Stillman of Samuel Butler, Helen McAfee of Tchekhov, Edith Wyatt of John Muir and Thoreau and Walt Whit-man, Charles Wharton Stork of Gustav Fröding, William Lyon Phelps of Browning, Schopenhauer and Music, and of Archibald Marshall, Herbert L. Stewart of Thomas Hardy, St. John Ervine of many literary personages whom he has known, William Roscoe Thayer and Elihu Root of Theodore Roosevelt.

On more abstract planes of thought President A. Law-rence Lowell wrote of Culture, as though "Kultur" had never marred the world; Philip S. Moxom of a modern con-ception of God, Felix Grendon, of the conception of God found in the writings of Samuel Butler; H. B. Marriott Watson reviewed the relationship between orthodox science and psychical research, James H. Hyslop gave his expert views of the results of psychical research, and John Bur-roughs contributed a matchless series of articles on nature and ethics. Vincente Blasco Ibanez gave the REVIEW with his powerful sketch of "The Curse of Spain"; Vernon Lee offered fascinating pictures of some of the most interesting places in the world as they were before the war; and the best poems of Amy Lowell, Alfred Noyes, William Dean Howells, Alan Seeger, and a host of other singers, lyric and dramatic, here found first utterance to the listening world.

Five years of the world. Five years of humanity. Five years of America. Five years of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. They seem brief as a watch in the night, now that their tale is told—their tale, their tally, of numbers. But when their tale, their record of achievement, is told even so briefly, fragmentarily and imperfectly as in these present pages, it seems a story to make us all glad to have been alive, to have seen these things, and to have been ourselves some part of them.